Negotiation with Nepal to control floods in Bihar

659. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that much of Bihar's agony of floods can be minimised only if the rivers originating from Nepal are controlled;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have been in negotiation with the Nepal Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the names of the rivers coming from Nepal and passing through Bihar causing immense flood damage and the progress of negotiation made with the Nepal Government in regard to each and causes for bottleneck;

(d) whether the issue calls for urgent attention for being sorted out at higher political level; and

(e) if so, the details; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Appropriate storage dams in Nepal on rivers flowing from Nepal would help in reducing flood problems in north Bihar.

(b) Government of India have been negotiating with Nepal in this regard.

(c) Major rivers, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda, their tributaries as well as Kamla, Bagmati and Adhwara group of rivers and other Tributaries of Kosi flow from Nepal to Bihar. High Dam on Kosi, Hydro meteorological Stations in Nepal for flood warning and coordinated flood control works are being discussed.

(d) and (e) Negotiations are being held at appropriate Government level.

Weather-forecasting computer in the Country

660. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got and advanced type of computer for weather forecasting in our country;

(b) if so, the period for which this computer can do the forecasting;

(c) whether an advanced type of computer, capable of giving forecast for six months/one year ahead, is also available in other countries; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to acquire them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT,S OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN):

(a) No, Sir, not yet.

(b) Does not apply.

(c) No, Sir, From the information available no such system exists.

(d) Does not arise.

Electoral reforms

661. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the recent deliberations in the two day meeting of major opposition leaders on the issue of electoral reforms;

(b) what is Government's view regarding the issue of funding of elections by Government; and

(c) what steps are likely to be taken to ensure that a consensus is